

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1982

Volume CVI, Number 6

## Baptisms drop

# SBC shows healthy gains; training figure jumps

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Healthier growth than predicted in December characterized Southern Baptists' final 1981 statistical report. Totals exceeded December projections in all areas except mission expenditures.

Church training, the one program projected to decline in 1981, showed a gain of more than 18,000 in the final figures. A sample analysis of church information letters in December predicted a loss of more than 10,000.

Points of special significance in this year's report are that the number of SBC churches topped 36,000 for the first time; membership is nearly 13.8 million; total gifts passed \$2.75 billion; and Brotherhood enrollment went over the half-million level for the first time since 1964.

This is only the second time since 1963 that all five church programs have increased, with Sunday School leading the way by going over the 7.5-million mark for the first time since 1968. Baptisms was the only area to record a loss from the previous year, but they still exceeded 400,000.

"The final report was better than the December projections this year because an estimated 1,000 letters from churches were involved in special processing and were left out of the projection figures," said Martin Bradley, secretary of the research services department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

## It looked like a funeral

By Jerry Stevens  
Director of Missions  
Winston County Association

The surroundings made it look like a funeral, everyone was crying, there were flowers, there were songs of hope, the pastor's chin quivered with emotion, his eyes stained from the tears he had shed. But there was no corpse. There was sadness mingled with hope. There were the remembrances of the past mingled with the expectations of the future. It was Liberty Baptist Church people meeting at a 1 p.m. service in the Noxapater Baptist Church. They were meeting there because their church building had burned on Friday morning. They were considering it a great loss, because of what had happened in that old building. Many of them had been saved there, to others it was their Bethel, where they had wrestled with God. Many of them had worked with their own hands, driving nails, smoothing plaster, laying bricks and putting the building together. So, a part of them had gone up in flames. There were the hymn books, the library books, the instruments of music that had been

(Continued on page 2)

"These letters were mostly from stronger churches and this affected the projection totals for all the report areas," Bradley said. "The number of letters used in the projections was 2,000 lower than in past years, which also affected the outcome."

The number of Southern Baptist churches grew by 248, or 0.7 percent, bringing the total to 36,079. This continues a trend of accelerated growth in the convention over the past 11 years.

Total membership in the convention rose 1.3 percent, or 182,772, to a new high of 13,789,580. Membership was projected to increase by 1.2 percent.

Baptisms this year, although dropping 5.6 percent from last year's total, still were 405,608, the 10th highest total in the 137-year history of the convention. The previous year's baptism total, 429,742, was the second highest ever recorded. The 1981 total is 1.4 percent higher than projected in December.

The convention's largest program,

Sunday School, recorded a 1.3 percent, or 94,995, growth in enrollment for 1981, which makes the new total 7,528,400. The December projection for Sunday School was 0.8 percent growth.

The church training gain of one percent brings total enrollment to 1,814,179. The figure includes new church member training enrollment, which became a part of the program total this year. Projections made in December indicated a loss for church training of 0.6 percent, or 10,774. Final figures showed the gain of 18,560, the second consecutive increase for the program.

Enrollment in Woman's Missionary Union grew last year by 1.3 percent, or 14,418, making the new total 1,114,461. WMU was projected in December to be up by 0.9 percent.

Brotherhood enrollment for 1981 increased 3.5 percent, or 17,234, bringing enrollment to 512,900. The December projected increase for Brotherhood

was about 5,000 lower than the actual figure.

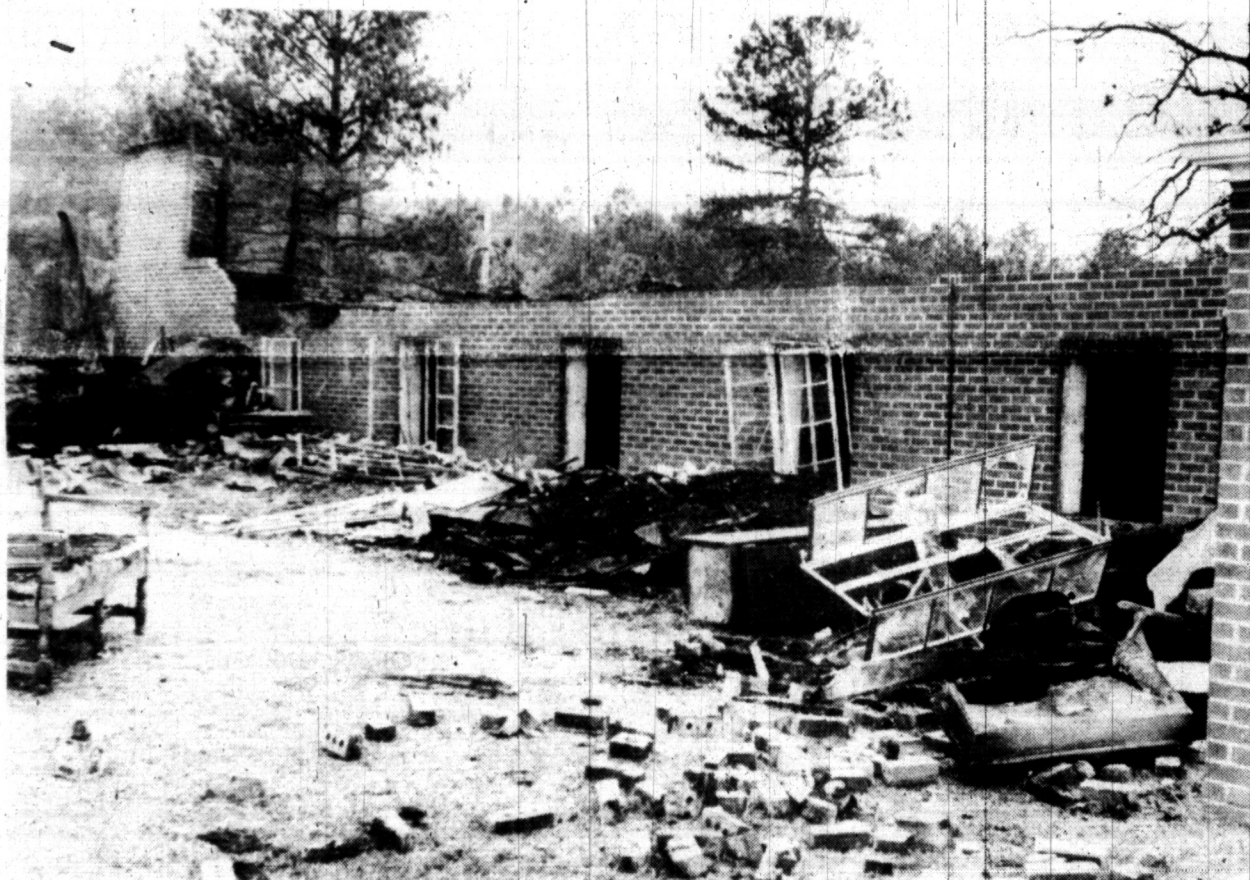
1981 marked the 16th consecutive year of enrollment increase in church music. Total music enrollment is now 1,590,992, up 4.2 percent, or 63,595, from last year. Music was projected to increase by 3.3 percent.

Total receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention were up by 12 percent, or almost \$300 million, to a new high of \$2,782,555,130. Last year's total was \$2,48 billion and the projected increase for this year was 11 percent.

Southern Baptist expenditures for missions in 1981 increased by 9.9 percent, almost \$40 million, bringing the new total to \$441,400,157. This is approximately \$3 million less than projected.

Statistics are charted on page 3.

(The Sunday School Board is blessed with two persons named Jim Lowry. One researches; the other writes.)



Fire makes rubble of church building

These are the remains of the building where Bethany Baptist Church, Lauderdale County, worshipped. The building burned February 27 and despite the work of four volunteer firefighting units, was a total loss. The building was insured for \$100,000. Jimmy Garrard, pastor, told the Baptist Record the church plans to rebuild as soon as possible. Church building consultant Neron Smith of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has already met with the building committee. Members are meeting in a building that was once a school, then an insulation factory. Six years ago, a tornado blew away the pastorium occupied by Garrard and

his family. Still able to crack a smile, Garrard quipped that his was "the only church in Lauderdale County that had fire in the pulpit that reached out into the pews." He quickly added that only the physical fire had been put out. The church was to participate in a Sunday School enlargement campaign along with 20 other county churches. Census takers said they were astonished to find 217 prospects in the Whynot community around Bethany. Garrard said the church will follow up on the enlargement campaign after its building is finished. Maurice Flowers of Jones County will lead the campaign.

# Secular standards of measurement aid minister burnout

NASHVILLE (BP)—Two Southern Baptist pastors confronting burnout in the ministry say pressures of time and secular standards of measurement imposed on the church are significant problems for many of the denomination's ministers.

The magnitude and number of pressures involved in serving as pastor of a local church are as varied as the pastors themselves, but the common denominators seem to be unrealistic expectations on time and demands of productivity.

Floyd Higginbotham, Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville, Miss., and Bill Oakley, First Baptist Church, Piggott, Ark., with 30 and 32 years experience as pastors, respectively, recognize problems which they believe are faced by ministers.

Depression, internal conflict, breakdown in relationships with family and church members, overwork and rationalization for missed goals, are some of the symptoms of burnout listed by the pastors as they examined their own experiences.

Both pastors attended a seminar on burnout in ministry out of a desire to be more effective and caring leaders of their congregations—both spiritually and through more efficient administration. Oakley spoke with high regard for the present church and the support of members there.

Oakley, who has been pastor of six churches and is a former employee of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, described himself as a perfectionist who is faced by an inner compulsion to accomplish all tasks in the church. His recognition of these symptoms helps him deal with the in-

evitable stress of failure when some tasks are left undone. Confident delegation of responsibility is a difficult but necessary step for him.

For Higginbotham, who has been pastor of seven churches, the pressure of preparation for preaching three times each week and leading a one-hour Bible study are primary sources of frustration leading to the symptoms of burnout and unfinished goals. The preacher must "produce" if he is to be perceived as successful. "The problem is created by secular standards of measurement imposed on the church," he said.

"People look at the budget, the number of baptisms, church growth and Sunday School attendance," echoed Oakley. "In our denomination, a pastor is expected to produce."

"These are the things that are measurable, yet I'm not sure they are always the most important," he continued. "The ministry is a highly stressful calling."

Oakley, 50, and Higginbotham, 48, also agreed that age restrictions set by pastor search committees are a constant source of frustration and pressure for men their age.

"We've set the standard in the Southern Baptist Convention that a man at age 45 is about through," Oakley said, primarily referring to mobility and acceptability to churches seeking pastors. "We are both at the age where we have to do a lot of praying about God's intention for our lives. I believe God will take care of it, but worrying about it gives me stress."

"I'm in a position at my age to be the best pastor I've ever been because of the experiences I've gone through,"



Bill Oakley (left), First Baptist Church, Piggott, Ark., and Floyd Higginbotham, Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville, Miss., agree burnout in the ministry can affect the effectiveness of pastors who live daily in the highly stressful conditions of their calling. Photo by David F. Haywood.

## needs call for Bold Giving

By Foy Rogers, Director

Mississippi Cooperative Missions Department

All Mississippi Baptists are challenged to double anything they have ever done for home missions. Our homeland needs to hear about Jesus. Our Home Mission Board has been given this task. Every Christian wants to see people saved. Let's go and tell. This requires giving. Let us be BOLD in our giving.

Every association in Mississippi is involved in this emphasis. This calls for boldness. The state Woman's Missionary Union goal for 1982 calls for a 40 percent increase in giving, the highest percentage increase ever suggested by the Mississippi WMU. The Home Mission Board set a goal that calls for a 27.5 percent increase. This, too, is a record increase. Thus, BOLDNESS is the word. CHRIST is the MESSAGE, and SUPPORT is urgently needed now.

Please examine your own heart and pray earnestly for God's guidance. Let's do something bold this year, not for Mississippi Baptists, or the Home Mission Board, as such, but for the Lord. Let us help take our homeland for Jesus and double anything we have ever done for home missions.

The Home Mission Board has the greatest task that has been given to any Christian group in modern history. Inflation has taken its toll and slowed down the advance in sharing the message.

The cost of travel and the cost of living have both taken their toll. Therefore, it is urgent that we give more than we have ever given if we do as much or more than we have ever done.

Every association in Mississippi will be blessed with the services of a home missions speaker during this emphasis, thanks to the directors of missions for 100 percent participation and to the Home Mission Board for providing personnel. Please join me in prayer for the bold missions challenge and let's double anything we have ever done for home missions in Mississippi.

William Carey really was a home missionary who challenged English Baptists to attempt great things for God and expect great things from God. It was in the North Hamptonshire Baptist Association where he preached his deathless sermon from Isaiah 54:2, "Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."

The Home Mission Board is involved in lengthening the cords for the homeland and in preparation for reaching the world. It also strengthens the stake for every ministry we have, whether in the association, the state convention, the home land, or the foreign land. Carey was not only ministering in an association, but was serving in his home land. He became the father of our modern missionary movement and later went to the foreign field. Always bear in mind that he began his ministry by strengthening the stakes in his homeland.

## Editorial

### Insurance review needed

For some reason church fires are a commonplace experience. This is a very painful occurrence, for many times in churches what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and the insurance is neglected.

In the past few years, building costs have risen in almost breathtaking fashion. So while building costs may have leveled off somewhat at this point, one would not need to go very far back in time to find that the cost of building was much lower than what would be the case today if rebuilding became necessary. By the same token, insurance that was not examined and upgraded just a very short time back is

without a doubt out of date. It would not cover the cost of reconstruction.

This is the experience of many churches that have lost worship centers, education buildings, and even pastor's homes.

It is always bad to be without the necessary building for any length of time, but it is devastating to experience the loss and not be able to replace it without a great deal of anguish.

So if it's everybody's business and nobody's business, whose business is it? Well, any church member can ask questions in business meetings that would start the ball rolling. The pas-

(Continued on page 4)

## Agricultural missions group to hear Cheyne

Immanuel Baptist Church, Greenwood, will be the site of the March 12 annual meeting of Agricultural Missions Fellowship. Agricultural Missions Fellowship is a non-profit organization of lay persons and pastors who have banded together to support the work of those missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board who help needy people learn how to produce more of their food and fiber needs.

"Ag Missions provides its members with the opportunity for direct involvement in mission projects," according to AMF President Gene Triggs. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature two Foreign Mission Board representatives.



Cheyne

John Cheyne, consultant for relief ministries, and a former Southern Baptist missionary to Rhodesia and Ethiopia will be the principal speaker. In his present capacity, Cheyne is responsible for coordinating the relief efforts of Southern Baptists around the world.

Assistance has been given to such countries as Poland, El Salvador, Bangladesh and Thailand. Cheyne will report on these efforts and his recent extended trip to Africa at the March 12 meeting.

Also appearing on the program will be Agricultural missionary Dale Carter who will show and tell about his agricultural missionary work in north Brazil. Carter has been in Brazil since 1958. He manages the farming and ranching operations of the Baptist Institute of Corrente and serves as Vice Director and Treasurer of the Institute.

Higginbotham added. "Yet this is the age where churches don't want you. The pastorate is the only profession I know where a person doesn't continue to advance."

Another responsibility which is time consuming for pastors and creates severe stress is the increasing number of requests for counseling by church members. Sermon preparation time requirements, coupled with visitation, administration and planning leave little time for talking with members about problems.

"I overschedule myself to the point I work approximately 70-75 hours each week," Oakley said. "That's probably common among ministers, but it affects my work."

"How do you tell a church member you love and care but that you just don't have time to deal with his problem at the present time?" Oakley asked. "It gives me a deep sense of agony to turn someone down."

Oakley has four fulltime persons on the church staff including himself. Parttime persons handle finances and the summer youth program. Staff openings create pressure for other staff members with work flow while trying to fill the position.

For Higginbotham, because he is the only staff member, comes the added pressure of trying to be all things to all church members. Motivating and enlisting volunteers, attending committee meetings and preparing for sermons often leave him frustrated because there just are not enough hours in the day.

"In a church with one staff member, the pastor has to initiate the activity, whether it is recreation, fellowship, education or Bible study," Higginbotham said. "You also have to be a participant in all the activities."

Giving time to these necessary, worthwhile activities then serves as another source of stress for the one-staff-member pastor who finds himself lacking adequate time for sermon preparation.

Higginbotham and Oakley were two of 33 pastors attending a seminar at the Sunday School Board to study the symptoms and causes of burnout in the ministry and how to deal with the problem personally.

Brooks Faulkner, career guidance supervisor in the board's church administration department, directed the seminar using his new book, *Burnout in Ministry—How to Recognize It, How to Avoid It*, as the text.

(Story by Jim Lowry who writes for the Sunday School Board.)



# SBC Executive Committee sets \$106 million budget

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The first \$100 million-plus budget in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention has been approved by the SBC Executive Committee.

The \$106 million Cooperative Program Allocation Budget will be presented to messengers of the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans for final action.

Adoption of the budget by the 67-member Executive Committee "is only one step in the multifaceted Cooperative Program budgeting process," said W. Dewey Presley, a Dallas banker who is chairman of the committee's program and budget subcommittee.

He explained the budgeting process began last September, when agency executives of the SBC's 20 agencies listed priorities and needs. Then, in a subcommittee meeting in January, a more detailed presentation was made, and the budget proposal drawn, Presley said.

Presley noted "the entire budget supports Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's plan to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000."

The budget provides \$96,635,000 as the basic operating budget; \$3,365,000 for capital needs, and \$6,000,000 as the challenge phase.

That compares with the 1981-82 budget of \$93 million, of which \$83,400,000 was the basic operating budget; \$3,000,000 was for capital needs, and \$6,599,400 was the challenge phase.

Under the proposal, the Foreign Mission Board will receive \$47,839,300, a 17.06 percent increase over the 1981-82 allocation of \$40,866,000. The Home Mission Board will receive \$19 million, a 16.83 percent increase over the \$16,263,000 last year. The Annuity Board will receive \$478,000, a 26.46 percent increase over the \$378,000 last year.

The six seminaries will receive \$20,520,600, a 13.26 percent increase over the \$18,118,900 last year.

Golden Gate seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., will receive \$1,917,049; Midwestern seminary in Kansas City,

\$1,775,896; New Orleans seminary, \$3,437,840; Southeastern seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., \$3,201,053; Southern seminary in Louisville, Ky., \$4,497,014; and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, \$5,691,748.

The seminary allocations are made under a complicated formula based in part on full-time equivalency enrollment and per student costs.

Other agencies: Southern Baptist Foundation, \$213,450; American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission, \$203,450; Brotherhood Commission, \$758,100; Christian Life Commission, \$562,800; Education Commission, \$378,400; Historical Commission, \$328,000; Radio-Television Commission, \$4,229,000; Stewardship Commission, \$344,500; and Public Affairs Committee, \$357,400.

The Southern Baptist Convention Operating Budget received an allocation of \$1,422,000, a 13.94 percent increase over the \$1,173,000 last year.

The Executive Committee also adopted a 1982-83 SBC Operating Budget, for presentation to the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans.

The budget, based on total income of \$2,144,500, provides \$631,900 for convention operations, which includes general operations, the SBC building in Nashville, the annual meeting and expenses of SBC committees.

Convention administration is budgeted for \$908,300; public relations at \$308,500, and the Baptist World Alliance contribution at \$295,800.

In the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the capital needs section provides \$201,400 to Golden Gate seminary for construction of child care facilities; \$306,000 to Midwestern seminary for a student center and energy package; \$1,000,000 to New Orleans seminary for a student center and cafeteria; \$1,365,000 to Southeastern seminary for a student center and other building renovation; \$221,000 to Southwestern seminary for a resources and research center and building renovation and \$271,600 to the Radio-TV Commission for tape duplication and TV equipment.

Phase One of the Challenge Budget

provides \$500,000 to the six seminaries.

Phase Two provides \$2,750,000 to the Foreign Mission Board, representing 50 percent of the total of \$5,500,000. The Home Mission Board would receive \$1,200,000, or 21.82 percent.

Others included in Phase Two are the SBC Operating Budget, \$200,000; seminaries, \$600,000; Christian Life Commission, \$75,000; Historical Commission, \$50,000; Stewardship Commission, \$45,000, and Public Affairs Committee, \$30,000.

## Mission gifts in state total \$2,272,673

Cooperative Program gifts for missions for February from the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention of \$1,196,121 brought the total for the year-to-date to \$2,272,673, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"We had million-dollar months in missions giving for both January and February in spite of the fact that both months ended on Sunday," Kelly said. "This is encouraging."

The gifts for February went above the monthly pro rata portion of the annual budget by \$36,119. The annual budget for this year is \$13,920,500, making the monthly portion \$1,160,042.

The February receipts were \$224,926 more than those for the same month of last year for a 23.2 percent increase. Combined with the \$1,076,552 figure for January, the February gifts still left the year-to-date total \$47,410 short of the prorated budget for two months.

## Mississippi seminary celebrates 40th

Mississippi Baptist Seminary celebrates its 40th anniversary next week, Mar. 16, 17, 18, at its main center, 3160 Lynch St., Jackson.

The three evening programs will be identical and each will begin at 6 p.m. A verbal history of the seminary will be presented by Hickman Johnson, academic dean. A film on the seminary's community impact will be shown. And President Dick Brogan will discuss the seminary's future.

## California projects are ready for Mississippians

The missions partnership between Mississippi Baptists and California Baptists continues this year with a number of mission projects developing. This phase of the partnership involves Mississippi Baptists going to California to help primarily with building programs.

So far, five projects are in the mill under the partnership agreement between the two conventions. An outline of the needs follows.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church in San Diego needs to enlarge their small auditorium and build educational space. Plans have been approved by the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board has approved the loan. The church is about six years old and the pastor recently went full time. They could use two teams for eight to 10 days each. The church and neighboring churches will provide housing and care for the meals of workers.

First Southern Baptist Mission of Brownsville is about 125 miles north-east of Sacramento in the Sierra foothills in a fast growing area. They have bought six acres and are building a 174 x 32 foot building, single story, frame construction, on a slab. They expect to have the slab down and lumber on site by early March and would like a team as soon as possible. They will have a construction supervisor and will be able to use any kind of support labor. They will provide food and lodging.

Esparto Mission of First Baptist Church of Winters has one class meeting in a motor home driven to church each Sunday. Educational space of 1,728 square feet is being planned. A construction team would be needed about the first of August. Lodging and meals will be provided.

A mission project in Pacheco needs either education or worship space. It is in the San Francisco Bay area. Ten to 15 persons are needed for 10 days to two weeks in June or July with framing and carpentry skills.

This next project is for information only. Already the Pike Baptist Association has agreed to undertake the project, according to Glen Williams, director of missions. First Southern Baptist Church, Citrus Heights wants to replace a 70 year old house with a two story educational building. In the Sacramento area, the church needs two teams with 10-15 people each to work one to two weeks in mid-July. They need framing, carpentry, electrical, and plumbing skills.

For any of the other four projects, a church or association may contact Paul Harrell, director of the Missis-



## Money management seminar

A group of Baptist leaders gathered at the Baptist Building recently for training and orientation in Christian Family Money Management. John Alexander, director of the Stewardship Department said, "Christian stewardship involves the management of all the powers and material possessions that Christians have. The practice of this larger stewardship is the responsibility of all Christians, and teaching Christians how to live and grow as Christian managers is a major responsibility of church leaders. We are constantly searching for ways to help a family's money go farther." Several special workers have been trained by the stewardship department to assist churches and pastors with conferences in the area of Christian Family Money Management. From left are Julius Thompson, Stewardship Department consultant; Bobby Perry and J. W. Brister, special workers; Bonita Bridges, Jan King, department secretary; and John Alexander, Bonita Bridges, Area Consumer Management Specialist with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, served as a resource leader, and spoke to the group meeting at the Baptist Building. Churches needing help in the area of Christian Family Money Management may consult the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Baptist Bookstores drop Mormon film productions

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Citing concern about potential damage to the ministries of Southern Baptist churches, Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen announced Baptist Film Centers will no longer distribute two films produced by Brigham Young University.

The films, "Cipher in the Snow" and "John Baker's Last Race," have been available through Broadman Films and Baptist Film Centers since 1975 and 1977, respectively. Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, is an institution of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons).

Cothen said both films are inspirational in nature and neither contains any doctrinal content. They have been rented about 4,000 times through the film centers to churches and individuals.

"A survey of users shows almost unanimous support for the films," he said.

However the board's distribution of

the films has recently been a target of a letter-writing protest campaign. Also, Cothen said, "We have received communications from responsible pastors who believe that any appearance of identification with sects is detrimental to their churches and their ministries."

The remaining confirmed bookings of the films will be honored, Cothen said.

(Linda Lawson writes for The Sunday School Board.)

## Top state church per capita Cooperative Program gifts

Church	Per Cap Gift	Coop Prog.	Res. Mbrs.
1. Prentiss	167.86	84,772.43	506
2. New Concord	145.83	875.00	6
3. FBC, Yazoo City	135.37	129,824.34	959
4. Center Ridge	133.33	7,200.00	54
5. FBC, Leland	130.67	75,064.62	378
6. FBC, Columbus	120.87	181,547.24	1,506
7. Berwick	119.61	4,067.00	34
8. FBC, Corinth	102.38	66,961.07	654
9. FBC, Columbia	101.35	128,111.39	1,264
10. Smyrna	98.24	3,340.44	34
11. FBC, Winona	94.80	62,667.32	661
12. Calvary	91.43	16,772.20	183
13. FBC, Grenada	90.48	114,193.41	1,262
14. Woodville	88.71	25,906.09	292
15. Enon	87.66	3,068.27	35
16. FBC, Rolling Fork	87.30	25,928.74	297
17. Trinity	86.73	13,009.54	150
18. FBC, Poplarville	84.67	41,747.15	493
19. Hickory	83.56	20,223.11	242
20. Rawls Springs	81.49	50,199.64	616
21. FBC, Wiggins	81.30	52,360.71	644
22. Hebron	80.99	12,068.79	149
23. FBC, Cleveland	79.88	63,186.06	791
24. Goodwater	78.59	5,137.26	65
25. Calvary, Tupelo	78.59	10,011.07	1,057
26. Broadmoor	77.34	227,790.82	2,945
27. Providence	75.84	10,011.07	132
28. Duncan	75.19	6,240.87	83
29. Myrtle	74.94	9,368.46	125
30. FBC, Ellisville	73.96	34,253.59	463
31. FBC, Vicksburg	73.48	97,582.09	1,328
32. Union	72.96	43,557.77	597
33. FBC, Crystal Springs	72.91	73,497.83	1,008
34. FBC, Brandon	72.31	87,281.76	1,207
35. FBC, Amory	71.59	62,500.00	873
36. Washington	71.31	22,249.33	312
37. Russell	71.21	15,454.21	217
38. FBC, Waynesboro	69.49	42,111.34	606
39. Fairview	67.99	76,063.30	1,119
40. FBC, Ripley	67.99	37,667.94	554
41. Highland	67.71	7,787.45	115
42. Crosby	67.34	5,724.36	85
43. Sandy Hook	67.25	4,304.36	64
44. FBC, Canton	65.98	45,992.82	697
45. Leaned	65.95	2,836.26	43
46. Centerville	65.79	19,406.17	295
47. Union	65.63	10,501.45	160
48. Lake Como	64.89	8,177.38	126
49. Highland	63.78	44,585.34	699
50. Roxie	63.77	12,244.44	192
51. Temple	63.32	1,651.72	26
52. FBC, Newton	63.01	43,541.63	691
53. Tyro	63.01	2,457.40	39
54. New Hebron	62.54	24,391.65	390
55. Skene	62.15	12,493.32	201
56. FBC, Macon	61.91	15,727.24	254
57. Antioch	61.76	4,200.33	68
58. FBC, Hattiesburg	61.24	78,256.54	1,287
59. FBC, Meridian	61.16	88,256.54	1,443
60. Pace	61.00	3,111.46	51
61. Harmontown	60.38	13,224.07	219
62. FBC, Union	60.37	33,207.97	550
63. N. Carrollton	60.08	12,196.42	203
64. Immanuel	60.00	24,722.90	412
65. Lyon	59.92	20,193.47	337
66. FBC, Tupelo	59.57	63,333.30	1,063
67. Pelahatchie	59.53	21,133.68	355
68. FBC, Pontotoc	59.48	56,272.63	946
69. New Hope	59.00	32,215.24	546
70. Cliff Temple	58.59	13,008.96	222
71. Southern Hills	58.43	3,681.10	63
72. Liberty	58.36	26,615.34	456
73. Briar Hill	57.89	24,256.00	419
74. FBC, Quitman	57.88	36,065.25	623
75. Midway	57.38	40,282.98	702
76. Tate Street	57.05	29,726.56	521
77. Hathorn	57.05	3,081.09	54
78. FBC, New Albany	56.38	56,443.76	1,001
79. FBC, Terry	56.18	24,271.28	432
80. Providence	56.15	1,628.55	29
81. FBC, Fulton	56.00	14,338.23	256
82. FBC, Calhoun City	55.95	33,738.60	603
83. Fords Creek	55.63	2,948.81	53
84. FBC, Aberdeen	55.36	41,966.28	758
85. Old Town	55.19	3,055.79	55
86. FBC, Louisville	55.08	49,413.37	897
87. FBC, McComb	54.85	62,944.57	1,140
88. Enterprise	54.79	12,726.24	232
89. Colonial Hgts	54.79	99,428.04	1,267
90. Woodlawn	54.74	76,155.69	1,391
91. Calvary	54.50	27,307.65	501
92. FBC, Lucedale	54.37	45,020.99	828
93. FBC, Laurel	54.11	58,820.92	1,087
94. Immanuel	54.06	19,139.02	354
95. Mt. Pisgah	53.99	5,507.87	102
96. FBC, Richton	53.94	19,205.30	356
97. FBC, Lexington	53.84	22,477.78	419
98. Eastend	53.59	30,815.03	575
99. Robinson	53.35	2,827.73	53
100. FBC, Jackson	53.33	240,750.00	4,514

## Joni to marry

SUN VALLEY, Calif. (EP)—Joni Eareckson, for 15 years a quadriplegic following a swimming accident in the Chesapeake Bay when she was 17, will marry Ken Tada on July 3, 1982, in Grace Community Church here. The 35-year-old groom is a high school teacher and a coach in the "Special Olympics" designed for handicapped youngsters.

Joni, star of the movie by that name and the author of two best-selling books, *Joni* and *A Step Further*, met Tada at Grace Community Church. They will live in Joni's specially equipped house in Woodland Hills, Calif., close to the office of her agency, Joni and Friends.

## Bold People Search subject of videotape

The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department has prepared a video cassette tape on the Nationwide Bold People Search being promoted for October 17-20, 1982.

The ½ inch, color, 17 minutes, VHS video tape is available free on loan through the Baptist Building Video Tape Services.

The tape, prepared by Mose Dangerfield, Mississippi Bold People Search Coordinator, is designed for churches and associations who are planning to conduct a People Search and need directions on how to plan and conduct the event.

As a part of the tape, an actual door-to-door interview is conducted as an example of what might happen. A discussion also follows on how to conduct the survey.

Churches and associations should call the program directors office (968-3912) to book the tape. Copies can be supplied on both ½ inch and ¾ inch tapes.

The United Bible Societies, the worldwide fellowship of 66 national Bible Societies is now directly or indirectly involved in translation projects in more than 500 languages around the world.

## It looked like a funeral

(Continued from page 1)  
given in memory of loved ones. Perhaps they will be replaced but the sentimental attachment is gone forever.

The pastor, Herbert Nettleton, tried to preach through tears. He announced to his people that sister churches of the association had called to offer their sanctuaries, educational buildings, chairs, hymn books and other instruments to worship.

He told of the many calls he had received from individuals offering to help while expressing their sympathy. I thought to myself, "Who says sister churches don't love each other?"

After the message every member of Liberty Baptist Church came forward, eyes streaming with tears, hugging each other and pledging their support to their pastor, the churches' leadership and to the Lord during this period of trauma. It was indeed like a funeral!

The church was called into business session. They elected a finance committee to be in charge of raising the needed funds to rebuild. They also elected a building committee to choose the design so that they might have a place in which to worship again.

Yes, it was like a funeral. It was a separation, but there was also the emotion of expectation of a new and better day. They left that Sunday afternoon service more determined, it seemed, to stick together, to build.

They left looking forward to the day in which a new building would be dedicated to the Lord. They took an offering for the new building that came close to \$5,000.

The executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Earl Kelly, through the Winston County Baptist Association missionary, offered the facilities at his hand to help the church rebuild. Churches of other denominations offered their facilities, their instruments of worship, and I thought again, "Who says Christians don't love each other?"

The moderator of the Winston County Baptist Association, Wayne Fults, offered assistance through the association. He also reminded the congregation that his church, Evergreen Baptist, had burned to the ground 10 years prior. They have rebuilt and have been strengthened by the experience. He left them with a feeling of hope.

It was like a funeral. Tears, emotions, a feeling of hopelessness, while at the same time signs of joy, hope, a better day and victory.

(Liberty Baptist Church had \$125,000 in insurance, but at \$30 per square foot, it will cost about \$250,000 just to replace the building.)

There is much satisfaction in work well done; praise is sweet; but there can be no happiness equal to the joy of finding a heart that understands—Victor Robinsoll

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# SBC building decision is still a year or more away

By Norman Jameson  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Any decision on a new Southern Baptist Convention building is at least 15 months away, although half the agencies that would be housed in such a building told Executive Committee members they desperately need more space.

The SBC Executive Committee, in its February meeting, authorized its long range study committee to continue to develop a plan to provide adequate space for the agencies involved. The committee will report in September, but it is anticipated no final action will be taken before the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Pittsburgh.

The long range study committee, then chaired by Knoxville businessman William A. Fortune, proposed in September that a new Southern Baptist Convention building be built for approximately \$6.5 million. Fortune's company would do the construction which would be through industrial revenue bonds.

Fortune was elected vice chairman of the Executive Committee in September, so resigned from the long range study committee. Since September, new long range committee chairman, Rodney R. Landes, of El Dorado, Ark., has tried to answer questions that arose from the surprise announcement of the new building plans.

Failure to document need for additional space was a primary criticism. Landes countered that by bringing the agency executives to project their 20-year space needs at the February meeting.

Three organizations currently housed in the SBC building—the Christian Life Commission, Seminary External Education Division and Stewardship Commission—say they are desperately overcrowded.

The other organizations housed in the building—the Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Foundation, Education Commission and American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission—indicated they have no great space needs.

The Historical Commission currently housed at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has asked to be an occupant in any new SBC building. It "must have additional space if it is to fulfill its assigned task," said director Lynn E. May, Jr.

Commission records now occupy 4,531 square feet at the board, and May anticipates increased need to 11,000 square feet by 1990.

The Seminary External Education Division, with over 10,000 students in center or home study courses, is "terribly overcrowded," said director Raymond M. Rigdon.

The Stewardship Commission has expanded from five to 26 employees in its 20-year existence. Their present space is "certainly not adequate" said director A. R. Fagan.

Foy D. Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said staff expansion from two to 12 in the past 20 years has cramped his space. Projecting, he said the commission should expand its services even more in the next 20 years.

Valentine also asked for a clear understanding of proprietorship among the agencies which would occupy a new building. In the current budget year, funds to operate the building have been diverted from the agencies' budgets to the Executive Committee for central management.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, said he feels a strong need for additional common space and parking.

Bennett said he would like to see a building with three large conference rooms seating 75 to 100, and three to six small conference rooms. The major auditorium, now seating 60 at desks and 164 in gallery seating, should be increased to 100 at desks and at least 300 in gallery seating, Bennett said.

The current building has 60 parking spaces. Bennett said there is a regular need for 100 spaces and, for special meetings, 140 to 150 spaces.

Landes reported the long range study committee has rejected industrial revenue bonds as a means of financing the building, and instead favors use of regular SBC capital needs funds.

He said the building will be in Nashville, although the specific site is still being studied. The Sunday School Board has offered a site adjacent to its building, and Landes said that "option is still open."

He also released a 1979 appraisal on the value of the SBC building: \$2,464,390.

(Jameson is BP feature editor.)

## U.S. now wants high court to settle race bias fight

By Stan Hastey  
WASHINGTON (BP)—Changing courses once more in what has become one of the most confusing church-state cases ever, the Reagan administration asked the Supreme Court Feb. 25 to decide if religious schools practicing race discrimination are entitled to tax-exempt status.

This latest action apparently means that the high court will decide the cases of Bob Jones University and Goldsboro (N.C.) Christian Schools after all, despite a Jan. 8 motion by the government that it be allowed to withdraw from the case.

That motion noted that the Justice Department had decided that an Internal Revenue Service practice dating to 1970 which denied tax exemption to such schools had not been authorized by Congress and that the schools denied such status under the rule should be reinstated as tax-exempt organizations. In addition, the motion asked the high court to nullify the decision of a federal appeals court in Richmond, Va. which had ruled against the schools.

Four days after filing the motion, however, President Reagan reacted to a storm of criticism over the move by announcing he would send a bill to Congress specifically authorizing IRS officials to implement a non-discriminatory policy in making decisions on tax exemptions to religious schools.

Members of Congress gave the President's proposal a lukewarm reception, many expressing the view that the dispute should be resolved by the Supreme Court. As support for Reagan's bill lagged, some members suggested in its place a congressional resolution, without force of law, to express the opinion of Congress that IRS should be permitted to deny tax-exempt status to schools practicing discrimination.

Congressional reaction, combined with a Feb. 18 order by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia directing the IRS not to grant or re-

store tax exemption to such schools, forced the government's hand. Assistant Attorney General Lawrence G. Wallace cited the lower court's action in requesting the Supreme Court to decide the matter.

In a separate document submitted to the high court, Wallace outlined the government's new views. When the case comes to argument, he indicated, the government will oppose Bob Jones University and Goldsboro Christian Schools in their claim that the IRS rule violates their free exercise of religion. But the government will agree with the schools that IRS lacked the legal authority to deny tax exemptions for race discrimination.

Wallace further suggested that in

## 1981 SBC STATISTICS

	1981	1980	Gain or Loss	Gain or Loss
Churches	36,079	35,831	248	0.7
Total Membership	13,789,580	13,606,808	182,772	1.3
Baptisms	405,608	429,742	-24,134	-5.6
Sunday School Enrollment	7,528,400	7,433,405	94,995	1.3
Church Training Enrollment	1,814,179	1,795,619	18,560	1.0
WMU Enrollment	1,114,461	1,100,043	14,418	1.3
Brotherhood Enrollment	512,900	495,666	17,234	3.5
Church Music Enrollment	1,590,992	1,527,397	63,595	4.2
Total Receipts	\$2,782,555,130	\$2,483,645,551	\$298,909,579	12.0
Total Mission Expenditures	\$441,400,157	\$401,499,506	\$39,900,651	9.9



Jeff Hubbard

## Revival Dates

**Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, (Lincoln):** March 14-19; 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; evening services at 7; David Perry, pastor, preaching; Paul W. Ball music evangelist, from Frisco City, Ala.; Charlotte Keen, organist; Steve Russell, pianist; cottage prayer meetings in homes of members on March 12.

**Pine Crest Church, Star:** March 14-17; services at 7 p.m.; dinner on the grounds, Sunday, March 14; Alan Black, youth director, preaching; Luther C. Newell, Jr., pastor. (There have been 39 additions to the church by letter and professions of faith since Jan. 10, 1982, when Black and Newell organized the church.)

A list of those churches giving to the Foreign Mission Offering will be in the Baptist Record April 22, 1982. The list will cover the period of June 1, 1981-March 31, 1982.

Any church not having sent in its offering during this time period will not appear in the list.

## An Open Letter

How do you do this? By urging your church to continue its budget subscription for all members. Or if you subscribe individually, by renewing your subscription even though the rates increase.

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R. Keith Parks  
President  
Foreign Mission Board

Through the years we have depended upon the Baptist state papers as the primary means of informing Southern Baptists about their mission work around the world.

You depend upon your state paper to update you on Baptist work in your own state and on the way your Cooperative Program dollars are being used throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and overseas.

Now your Baptist paper is facing a severe financial crisis. The government on Jan. 10 eliminated all subsidy for such nonprofit mailers. This meant that postage rates overnight doubled, or in some cases almost tripled.

The Baptist papers are being forced to raise their subscription rates, and that's why I'm writing you today. One way of increasing an awareness of missions and enhancing the cooperative spirit that marks Southern Baptist life is to support your state paper during this crisis.

## Neshoba has new churches

Two groups in Neshoba County have recently come out of established churches to form full fledged new churches. One, Grace Baptist Church, was constituted Feb. 7, with a number of members coming out of North Calvary Baptist Church.

The other, Sand Hill Baptist Church, was constituted Nov. 1 of last year, with the nucleus of members coming out of Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church.

Since the new groups have organized, according to Kermit Sharp, director of missions for the Kemper and Neshoba Associations, the attendance and income of the four churches far surpasses what they were a year ago at two churches. And North Calvary and Old Pearl Valley are both heading toward old attendance averages.

Both of the new churches have applied for membership in the Neshoba Baptist Association and Kermit Sharp indicated that their applications would be given to the associational executive committee during next meeting.

Lonnie Alexander, check out supervisor for a Philadelphia department store, is pastor of the Sand Hill church which is meeting in the Sand Hill community on the edge of Neshoba County. They are meeting in a Methodist church that was built in 1954 next to a cemetery to serve as a place to hold funerals. Even the Baptists met there under the Methodist auspices for a couple of years, but the building has been idle since 1956. H. C. Breazeale, a member of the Sand Hill church even helped build the building and helped encourage the new congregation to build their ministry in the community. Application is being made to the Methodist Conference which holds title to the building.

Grace Baptist Church has been meeting in the Neshoba Associational offices. There they began and were constituted. The church is already looking for permanent facilities and may try to buy land in a growing part of Philadelphia.

Dennis Duvall, former pastor at North Calvary, is interim pastor at Grace.



Lonnie Alexander, far right, leads opening session for adult Sunday School at Sand Hill church. Neshoba director of missions, Kermit Sharp, is on front row.



Dennis Duvall, far right, watches members sign the charter for Grace Baptist Church.

One editor of a small town paper who became irritated with the number of complaints following his editorials decided to run the Ten Commandments in place of his next editorial. A few days later a letter arrived reading: "Cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal!"

## CLASSIFIED

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## Ole Miss plans Rebel Roundup day

Rebel Roundup is a day of crazy games, fun, food, and inspiration sponsored by the Ole Miss Baptist Student Union especially for high school and junior high church groups.

It will be held Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Oxford at the University of Mississippi Education School Gym and Playing Field.

The purpose of Rebel Roundup is to give students an opportunity to participate in the fellowship of sports competition through an out-of-the-ordinary olympics, to acquaint students with Christian college students and the program of the Baptist Student Union at Ole Miss, to provide a worship service in which youths will be chal-



lenged to commit their lives fully to Jesus Christ, and to support the program of BSU student summer missions through entry fees and concessions.

Churches from throughout the state are invited to bring teams of young people to participate in the games which are patterned after the television show "Almost Anything Goes" and the special youth rally which will feature testimonies by Ole Miss Johnny Reb mascot, Jeff Hubbard, and Lady Rebel Volleyball player, Jenny Rhoads.

Special music will be presented by Bryan Kennedy, a member of the Ole Miss football team. Other entertainment will be provided by the BSU special ministries teams—The Gift of Song singing ensemble and The Gathering drama team. Lloyd Lunceford, associate director of Student Work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will also share in the Rebel Roundup Rally.

Trophies are awarded in the junior high division and the high school division. Last year's winners were First Baptist Church, Pontotoc, in the senior high division and First Baptist Church of Days, Nesbit, in the junior high division.

Registration for Rebel Roundup is due April 9. The cost is \$20 per team. Additional information and application forms may be obtained by writing Ole Miss BSU, Box 292, University, Miss., 38677, or by calling (601) 234-9366.

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if the State of Massachusetts may forbid drinking establishments with a 500-foot radius of churches.

## Mrs. Dent to preside at WMU Convention

The 103rd meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will convene at First Baptist Church, Columbus, on Monday evening, March 22, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Robert P. Dent, Sr., of Holly Springs, will preside.

Elected in Greenville in 1979 as lay leader of more than 53,000 members of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Mrs. Dent is the 20th president in the 104 years of the existence of the state missions education organization for women, young women, girls, and preschool boys and girls.

Sessions of this year's annual meeting, in addition to the Monday evening

meeting, will be Tuesday morning, beginning at 9:30, Tuesday afternoon, beginning at 1:30, Tuesday night, beginning at 7 p.m., and Wednesday morning, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The convention will conclude with the Wednesday morning session.

Featured speakers will be Dorothy Sample, national president of Woman's Missionary Union; Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Mrs. Adrian Hall, executive director of Nevada WMU; and Mrs. R. C. McGlamery, former missionary of the Foreign Mission Board, who will have devotional messages at the beginning of each of the five sessions of the convention. Music will be led by Mrs. Kathryn Barfield, music evangelist from Yazoo City.

## Handbell festival set for Mar. 19-20

The Mississippi Baptist State Handbell Festival is set for March 19-20 at Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson. Guest clinician will be Donald Allured, of Birmingham, Ala.

It begins Friday evening at 6 p.m. and concludes Saturday afternoon at 2:30. Perry Robinson is festival coordinator.

The festival will conclude with a concert open to the public at 1:30 Saturday, March 20.

## Sunshine will dedicate sanctuary

Sunshine Baptist Church at Pearl in Rankin County will dedicate its sanctuary on Sunday, March 14, at 2 p.m. Mike Willoughby, Mobile, Ala., former pastor at Sunshine, will be guest speaker. Sam Creel is the pastor.

## Wheaton students to aid in Mendenhall

WHEATON, Ill. (EP)—Twenty Wheaton College students will spend their 10-day spring break living and working among the rural poor of southern Mississippi, according to Lynn Alberti, student government president.

The project is being coordinated by student government in response to a call for aid from John Perkins, founder of Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Miss.

Wheaton's students will lend a hand to alleviate a crisis in Mendenhall, a town of 3,000, forty miles southeast of Jackson. Voice of Calvary's facilities in Mendenhall include a health center, thrift shop, kindergarten, and farm.

This winter, the farm was severely damaged by erosion. Wheaton students will move brush and stack sandbags to build a much needed dam on the farm.

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# Editorials

## Pari-mutuel gambling dies

House Bill 191, the one that would have brought pari-mutuel gambling to Mississippi, died in the House on Thursday of last week when it failed by a vote of 72 to 42. Baptist Representative Pat Presley and Catholic Representative Charles Lippian, both of Jackson County, led the assault on the bill that resulted in its defeat.

They were ably assisted by two more Baptists, Lonnie Johnson of Rankin County and Mike Eakes of Neshoba County, and a Presbyterian, Betty Long of Lauderdale County. Another Jackson County representative, Stephen Hale, a Mormon, also spoke against the bill; and the other Baptist from Jackson County, Adrian Lee Jr., was active behind the scenes in fighting the bill.

The only Jackson County representative who voted for the bill was Ted Millette, a Catholic. While he was the sponsor of the bill, he did not speak in its defense.

The bill began as a measure to make pari-mutuel gambling available only in Jackson County. The House Ways and Means Committee amended it before sending it to the floor to include all counties bordering on the Gulf of Mexico or another state. That was a telling blow. It was apparent throughout that several legislators would vote to let gambling be established in Jackson County, but they didn't want it in their own. This was the attack used by Miss Long and Eakes as they fought the bill. Miss Long sought to throw one of the several parliamentary snags in the path of the bill as she offered an amendment that would have made it apply statewide. This failed in a roll call vote of 48 to 66, but she later came back to challenge the legislators to have the integrity to vote against the bill if they would not want it in their county.

Eakes said he believes the major cause of the situation in America today is the result of a breakdown in the

moral fiber of the nation. He said if gambling "is not good for your county, it is not good for the coast."

Supporters of the bill first tried to get it amended to apply only to Jackson County, figuring that many legislators would be more willing to vote for that. A Lippian substitute motion for the amendment sought to make it include the three counties along the Gulf Coast. Presley pled for the substitute and the amendment to be defeated so that the bill would be in the form in which it came out of committee. First the substitute was voted down and then a call for an immediate move to vote on the bill was defeated by a 57 to 56 vote. Then the amendment was defeated.

Then Lippian offered in amendment that would delete the section making the local legislative delegation responsible for determining one of the track commissioners. This was defeated. Another previous question vote failed; and a motion by Johnson to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee, which would have killed it, was tied at 56 to 56, and thus not effective. Then another previous question vote failed by 66 to 46.

It was at this point that Miss Long presented her proposed amendment. After it had failed Hale took the floor to point out that the issue was gambling, not horse racing. Presley noted that there are more losers than winners, and Johnson said that statistics show that legal gambling increases illegal gambling.

Lippian, the small man with the big spirit, declared that gambling would bring on social problems that would pollute the community. He was the fiery little preacher all the way through committee meetings and floor debate. He quoted scripture at every opportunity, saying, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" He told the many horse industry people in the

audience, "Legalized gamblers need you. You don't need them."

At that point Eakes spoke, and then another attempt to call for the previous question failed. Then Bill Jones of Forrest County and Alan Santa Cruz of Harrison County spoke for the bill, and it came to a vote. The result was the resounding 72 to 42 defeat.

The citizens of Mississippi owe a debt to some courageous legislators who stood in the face of a determined effort to get this bill passed and brought the House around to their position. And we citizens must realize that more than likely the same issue will surface against next year. The gamblers don't quit. They rely on the idea that the other side will grow weary of the fight.

We must support those who will again stand against this measure if it is brought up again. The better approach would be to let the legislators know before the next session begins that we don't want to hear of it again.

Baptists can control the moral climate in this state whenever we take a notion to do so. A dedicated group of people was doing it for us last week. We must recognize and appreciate their efforts.

Those voting against the gambling bill were Albritton, Allen, Anderson, Andrews, Atkinson, Barefield, Blount,

Breland, Brooks, Bryan, Campbell, Casey, Cates, Clark, Coleman, Dobbs, Dollar, Eakes, Everett, Floyd, Ford, Frazier, Gary, Gilbreath, Grist, Halbrook, Hale, Hall, Hanson, Hollinger, Holmes, Horne, Horton, Huggins, Hutto, Johnson, King, Lee, Lippian, Livingston, Long, Manning, McCoy, McMillan, McNatt, Miller, Morrow, Neal, Nunnally, Pennebaker, Poindexter, Presley, Reynolds, Richardson, Robinson, Sheppard, Simmons, Rob Smith, Stennis, Stringer, Stubbs, Townsend, Vince, Wadkins, Walman, Warren, Watson, Jerry Wilkerson, Charles Williams, Kenneth Williams, Guy Williams, and Wilson. Absent were Chambliss, Fredericks, Lambert, Malone, McIngvale, Robertson, Shumake, and Thomas. All others voted for the bill.

A word of appreciation must be expressed for Butch McMillan of Attala County and Lippian for calling the editor at critical times to point out what was going on.

A motion to reconsider the bill made passage still possible until Saturday, when the House met to give attention to all the bills that had been held over for reconsideration. In a meeting that lasted less than an hour, however, there was no one to ask for the reconsideration of H. B. 191, and adjournment snuffed it out completely.

## Haywood N. Stubble

WHAT AM I WATCHING ON TELEVISION? NOT A THING! ACTUALLY, I WAS PRAYING FOR OUR HOME MISSIONARIES. -DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Missions at home

"If you have two true friends, you're lucky," I've heard it said. Maybe I have three. One is Joan Peterson. She and I have traveled together to Tokyo and London and Minneapolis and Miami, and have kept the post office busy since our Judson days. If you're interested in starting a children's church in your house, you might get some inspiration from hearing what she did at the house where she grew up, 2016 West Gregory, Pensacola, Fla.

It intrigues me (and excites my envy) that she managed to retire at least 15 years early. Actually, she has become a full-time volunteer missionary at her own doorstep. Before last year she had taught first grade and/or kindergarten for 30 years (1950-80) in her hometown. Single, she has lived alone since her parents died and her brother Ralph moved to Washington, D.C.

Around 5,000 Vietnamese, plus Cambodians and Laotians, settled in Pensacola, many in her neighborhood. One day in early 1979 Joan visited the Buddhist family of a Vietnamese girl enrolled in her kindergarten class, and took them a Bible. Next door lived another Vietnamese family. When she stopped there to offer a Bible, a man came to the door and said, "We already have a Bible. We are Christians, and I am a pastor." This man, Hong Dong, and his family soon afterward joined First Baptist Church, Pensacola, where Joan is a member. Since then he has become the church's Vietnamese pastor.

On Easter Sunday, 1979, with Hong Dong's help, Joan began a Sunday afternoon children's church at her house, with Bible study using Big A materials, and messages by Hong Dong. She had been wanting to do something specific to witness to language groups in her area and thought that these children, mostly Vietnamese, might feel more free to come to services in a home than in a church. (Some were of Buddhist, Catholic, and various other religious backgrounds.)

Word got around, and interest flamed. Children quickly filled her three small bedrooms, living room, dining room, and kitchen. When warm weather arrived, they overflowed into the back yard. Sometimes parents would come, too. Two teen-age girls made professions of faith. Other helpers were enlisted.

As the number reached 48, the "congregation" last year moved its meeting place to the First Baptist Church and the church began sending its vans to pick up the children. Enrollment climbed to 70. Some of the children and their families began attending other services of the church. Five have been baptized since then.

Joan's pastor, Brian Harbour, interviewed her during a February 14, 1982, worship service and presented to her a Valentine corsage in appreciation from the church for her work with the Vietnamese children.

Besides that, she directs a 5-year-old department in Sunday School and is president of a Baptist Women's group. She is active in church-sponsored events to welcome international students to the University of West Florida. Once a month she teaches a Bible study at her house.

Children of the Cambodian family across the street from her house visit her daily; she helps with their homework. One of those small boys she sent to a Baptist camp last summer. After he took part in the "camp report" to the church, she said, "I feel like a proud grandma." Her blue eyes registered joy.

When a neighbor's car broke down, she drove the neighbor to work for several weeks. She grocery shops and visits hospitals with and for the old and the sick. She collects old furniture to give new families in town who are in desperate need of it. For instance, she located a sewing machine for a family of three Vietnamese men who make their own clothes.

Her prayer ministry is wide. Each morning at 7, she and a partner pray over the phone. In her notebook she keeps account of many prayer requests that come her way. Saturday mornings she meets with a group to pray for revival. Rarely does she miss an opportunity to witness. Old and young feel her genuineness and respond to her concern.

After she visited a black family who had moved to her street, the woman of the house told a friend, "I feel so astonished and warmed to have a white woman come and welcome me in this way."

## Hughes, Cooper head executives, editors

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Robert Hughes of California and Edgar Cooper of Florida were elected to head the associations of Southern Baptist Executive Directors and Editors during the group's annual meetings.

Hughes is executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. He succeeds Joe Ingram, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Cooper, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, journal of the Florida Baptist Convention, succeeds Don McGregor, editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The executives named Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, as president-elect.

Robert Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist, was named president-elect of the SBPA.

Amidst discussion of the survival of the Southern Baptist-affiliated newspapers because of postal increases, editors voted to have their liaison committee work with the director of Baptist Press, Wilmer C. Fields, and leaders of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, to expand the Baptist Press Bureau in Washington, D.C.

The editors, who represent 34 publications with an aggregate circulation of nearly 1.9 million, also accepted a report from the liaison committee re-

commending Baptist Press remain a part of the SBC Executive Committee, and not be given separate agency status.

During the 1981 annual meeting of the SBC in Los Angeles, messenger Jimmy Stroud from Knoxville, Tenn., recommended giving Baptist Press agency status. The recommendation was referred to the Executive Committee, which administers the news service function, for study.

### Insurance review

(Continued from page 1)

tor, of course, should feel perfectly free to examine the insurance coverage for the church. Deacons likewise would not be going afieid of their responsibilities to find out what replacement costs would be and see if insurance values would take care of them.

There are others, of course. There are buildings and grounds committee, trustees, and finance committees. The members, however, should not sit around and suppose that someone from one of these groups was on top of the situation.

Ask questions. They may elicit answers that would determine that action is necessary. The action that is needed could be vital.

## Native wine advertising

During all of the attention that was given H.B. 191, another bill quietly made its way through the House and into the Senate. It was H. B. 905 with the intent to legalize the advertising of the products of native wineries. Native wineries are those wineries that operate in Mississippi using grapes grown in Mississippi for their products. One such winery is reported to be in operation at Mississippi State University.

In 1976 while he was still in the Senate, Bill Burgin of Columbus intro-

duced a bill, along with Sen. Ellis Bodron of Vicksburg, that allowed wine to be made in Mississippi from native-grown grapes. By law, however, it is illegal to advertise either wine or liquor in Mississippi. The Legislature keeps turning back the annual effort to have alcohol advertising made legal. Hopefully, it will be so again in this case. If it should not, there is no telling on what additional doors those would come knocking who have an interest in liquor sales.

## Letters to the Editor

### Aid for lost libraries

Editor:

I became alarmed because of the large number of church fires in recent months and pondered about any aid I could offer to my fellow pastors who experienced church fires. Some had lost an entire library.

I thought of the loss of valuable books, the out of print volumes, and the expense involved. I looked at my library and thought, "Why not share?"

Now upon hearing or reading of a fire in a church, I choose a good book from my library and mail it to my preacher brother with a note of encouragement.

We all can spare a few of our books. Let them form a nuclei for a pastor's new library.

Dan D. Bryson, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Clinton, MS.

### Help for Vermont Baptists

Editor:

Thanks to Mississippi Baptists we of the Precision Valley Baptist Church are able to meet in our own building after meeting in homes, campgrounds, Masonic hall, and schools. We even met for a while in an old school bus. We are now warm and can worship without shivering and shaking.

We had our dedication on Dec. 6. We have received financial help

from many Mississippi Baptists and we are very grateful for all their help. We are especially grateful for the Scott County Association for commitment and support that enabled us to go ahead with our building project.

I am a native of Scott County, Miss. My wife, Peggy; daughter, Kathy; and I have been in Vermont since August of '76.

Aubrey C. Jones, Pastor  
Precision Valley Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 13  
Springfield, VT 05156

### Church Training growth

Editor:

A recent news release reported the 18,560 increase in Church Training enrollment for 1980-81. As you know, this is the second year in a row that Church Training has had a major increase in enrollment! Thank you for the support you have given Church Training in your paper and for the hard work of the people of Mississippi.

It is partly because of you that our denomination has experienced such discipleship training milestones as Survival Kits, MasterLife, Equipping Centers, DiscipleLife Celebrations, doctrine study, and church growth curriculum.

Thank you for helping to make Church Training the vital program it should be!

Roy T. Edgemon, Director  
Church Training Department

## On Masada . . .

## Gulfport pastor's wife finds historical coin

A coin found during a visit to Masada in Israel by Mrs. Jim Keith, wife of the pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, has been determined to have significant historical value.

A letter to Keith from Jerry Vardaman, director of the Cobb Institute of Archeology at Mississippi State University, states:

"I am now in a position to say that the coin which you found was Constantine the Great with no doubt. It is the type which I indicated to you that I thought that it was, 'The Sol Invictus' type. The reverse shows the invincible sun god Sol holding his hand out to the sun in worship of the sun. The front depicts Constantine the Great looking right and the Latin legend means, 'Emperor Constantine Most Happy Priest Augustus.' I would date the coin around A.D. 323-325. It has to date before the year A.D. 337, in any case, since Constantine I died about that time. The coin seems to have been struck at Antioch."

In a latter letter to Keith, Vardaman wrote:

"One has to recognize, of course, that a coin can continue in circulation at almost any time for long periods of time, and this could well have been the case in respect to your coin. But, this is not the usual pattern. Normally, a coin will be lost while in use, and to me it indicates clearly that Yadin will need to revise his date for the time the Byzantine Chapel was in use; certainly it strongly indicates that monks must have occupied Masada much earlier than we previously suspected. And I would suggest that Yadin likely did not have experienced help in excavating the chapel and could well have missed any coin at all (which gives the best archaeological evidence

for such matters, normally speaking.)"

Yigael Yadin has now assumed his position as professor of archaeology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was director of the Masada Archaeological Expedition. In his work entitled "Masada, Herod's Fortress and the Zealots' Last Stand," he indicated that "... we are able to date the building of the chapel and ascribe it to the 5th Century." It is this date that the coin's discovery could revise.

Regarding the event, Keith said, "The coin was found on January 3, 1981, in the vicinity of the Byzantine church midway between Herod's bath and the Roman ramp of Flavius Silva. I had been searching for artifacts when my wife walked over with a bronze object the size of a penny in her hand and asked, 'What is this?'"

George Keim, professor of archaeology at Southwestern Seminary, was walking with me, and he immediately identified it as a Roman coin. Upon returning to the United States we studied various charts of coins from the Biblical era but found none which paralleled the one discovered. In April I carried the coin to Vardaman, a foremost expert in such, and he quickly identified it as a Constantine coin. After cleaning it he was able to determine the other matters of information pertaining to it."

Yadin, who was Deputy Prime Minister of Israel at the time of Mrs.

Keith's discovery, is quite aware of the discovery and has expressed his interest in acquiring the coin. Also the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State and the Southwestern Seminary museum have made similar requests.

Keith says, "It is my wife's treasure and she has no interest in giving it up. Presently she is wearing it on a gold chain around her neck. It took three years for the Roman army to take Masada from 960 Jews. It may take longer for Israel to capture a Roman coin of Masada from one woman!"

Rome (EP)—Pope John Paul II today launched a new purge of liberalism among the Jesuits at a closed-door conclave of the order's officials from around the world. The conservative pope is upset about the many members of the Society of Jesus, the order's official name, who have turned political activist and support leftist movements in Latin America, according to Jesuit and Vatican sources. The sources said John Paul also is angry about many Jesuits' outspoken support for progressive causes, including public opposition to the ban on artificial birth control and theological writings emphasizing the human rather than the divine nature of Jesus.



Joan Peterson, left, talks with Mrs. Laura Stoesen, 88, about English lessons for international students. Mrs. Stoesen, a former missionary to Puerto Rico, speaks Spanish, English, and Norwegian, and is an interpreter in sign language for the deaf. She has a volunteer ministry as interpreter for the season and new U.S. citizens.

## Book Reviews

**STORIES OF OUR FAVORITE HYMNS** compiled by Christopher Idle (Eerdmans, 70 pp., \$10.95) This collection of over 50 hymns is arranged in groups according to the petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Included are stories behind the hymns' origin, accounts of their role in historical events, and scripture passages which illumine their meaning. Exquisite art and photography added to an unusual format make this a most attractive hymn story book. The compiler is rector of a Church of England parish in London.—AWM

**EERDMANS' CONCISE BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA** (Eerdmans, \$8.95, 257 pp., paper) Brief facts about people, places, events, daily life, key teachings of the Bible are arranged in alphabetical order. Line drawings, mainly of scenes from carvings and objects discovered by archaeologists, illustrate the text. Concise, pocket-sized, written in a style that will appeal to the general reader, this book would be a handy addition to anyone's library.—AWM

**The Baptist Record**  
(ISSN-0005-5778)  
515 Mississippi Street  
Box 530  
Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

Official Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention

James Yates President  
Earl Kelly Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
The Baptist Building  
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell Clark, Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian; vice-chairman; Odie Henderson, Cleveland; Gary Roland, Pascagoula; chairman; Tom Hudson, Jackson; James Jackson, Columbia.

Subscriptions: \$5.25 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.



# Just for the Record



ZION HILL CHURCH near Liberty, fourth oldest in Mississippi Baptist Association, recently recognized members with perfect attendance in Sunday School. Front row: James Fleming, deacon, two years; Willard McAllister, deacon, one year. Back: Mrs. Doris Stokes, secretary and clerk for 22 years, eight years; D. M. Dixon, Jr., Sunday School director, 18 years; Mrs. D. M. (Ruth) Dixon, Jr., Sunday School teacher, 18 years; and Mrs. Jackie (Barbara) Stokes, one year. Odus Jackson, pastor, is on back row, left.

Thomas and Sandy Warrington, missionaries to Costa Rica since 1976, resigned from missionary service Jan. 31. They were stationed in San Jose, Costa Rica, where he served as a general evangelist and theological teacher. He is a native of Jackson, Miss., and she is the former Sandy Dill of West Point, Miss. They may be addressed at 3142 Las Palmas, Houston, Texas 77027.

Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., has called Lynn Madden as minister of music. Madden goes from Twelfth Street Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala. He formerly served First Church, Ridgeland, Miss., and First Church, Horn Lake, Miss. Madden is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter, Melodie, 4.

Anne Nora Laseter, 91, one of Southern Baptists' early missionaries to Chile, died Feb. 16 in Waco, Texas, a victim of lung cancer. A native of Hubbard, Texas, she was appointed a missionary in 1923 and served in educational work until her retirement in 1957.

For 23 years she was on staff at the Baptist Academy in Temuco. Later, she taught in a school operated by First Baptist Church, Santiago, then joined the staff of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Santiago, as teacher and housemother.

Miss Laseter is survived by two sisters and nieces and nephews, including Ross B. Fryer Jr., Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia. Funeral services were to be held Feb. 17 at Wilkerson-Hatch Funeral Home, Waco.

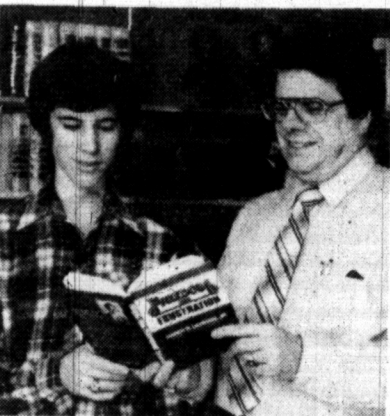
Glen Joy and Roger Bumpas have formed an evangelism team and state that they are available to churches for pulpit supply or revival services, "with no financial requirements." They may be contacted at 9214 C Givens Circle, Biloxi, Miss. 39531 (phone 601/388-1025).

## OBU Bisonettes to sing at Broadmoor

Oklahoma Baptist University's Bisonette Glee Club, a 35-voice, all women's singing group, will present a concert Wednesday evening, March 17 at 8:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, in the sanctuary.

This group will also sing at Carpenter's Workshop, a special fellowship time for the young people of this area, at 8 p.m. the same evening in the Broadmoor Chapel.

The glee club is directed by Jack A. Pearson, OBU assistant professor of music. The Bisonettes were organized in 1954 under the leadership of Warren M. Angell, dean emeritus of OBU's College of Fine Arts.



Denham and Denham

## Autograph party features pastor's newest book

Members of First Baptist Church, Newton, held an autograph party Sunday evening, Jan. 31, for their pastor, Hardy Denham. The session, after the evening service, was held in the Family Life Building. Denham's newest book, *Freedom from Frustration*, has been released by Broadman Press. It is hardback and sells for \$3.25. It is to be mailed to the 18,000 subscribers of the Broadman Readers' Plan.

The book is devoted entirely to the theme of frustration and is written for the man-in-the-street. Denham is pictured with his son, Stanley Ross Denham, one of his children to whom the book is dedicated.

## WMU StarTeam member dies

Mrs. Jewell Smith of Brookhaven, 58, died Feb. 26 of viral pneumonia. The funeral was held Feb. 28 at Hecks Retreat Baptist Church, Lincoln County, where she was a member.

Mrs. Smith, the former Aileen Nations, had served two terms as a member of the state WMU Board. At the time of her death she was serving as StarTeam member in a WMU enlargement effort. She was featured in an article in the Feb. 4 Baptist Record by Betty Smith about the new WMU at Gum Grove Church. Survivors include her husband; a sister; and three brothers.

## Names in the News

Thursday, March 11, 1982

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

## 25th anniversary

## First, Yazoo City, will send church secretary to Holy Land

First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, proclaimed Feb. 14 Linda Jenkins Day in honor of its church secretary-receptionist's 25th anniversary on the staff.

The day included recognition and flowers in morning service, and a reception after the evening service. In appreciation for faithful service, the church presented to Miss Jenkins an all-expenses-paid trip to the Holy Land, plus spending money and three days in her dream city, Rome. She plans to take the trip later this year.

Miss Jenkins began her service there Feb. 15, 1957, when Harold Shirley was pastor. She has been secretary to the present pastor, James F. Yates (who is now also president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention), during the entire 20 years he has been in Yazoo City.

Born in Clarksdale, she moved to Yazoo City at an early age. An honor graduate of Yazoo City High, she began work on the church staff shortly after her graduation. She has since

taken courses at Mississippi College and has had secretarial courses and attended seminars at Southern Seminary and in Nashville.

In her church she is department director for the Children's Eleven Sunday School and sings in the Sanctuary Choir. She is treasurer of the Yazoo County Baptist Association and first vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries' Association. She has taught seminars around the state, and has served on the faculty at Gulfshore.

## Beulah invites former pastors to homecoming

Beulah Baptist Church, Newton County, is making plans now for its July 11 homecoming day, said Harry Sartain, pastor. He stated that the church wants to invite its former pastors to the homecoming. They are Ben Davis, Bill Webb, Guy Jones, S. S. Kelly, A. O. Jenkins, W. E. Overstreet. For some of these he did not have an address, but would like to get in touch with all of them. Sartain's address is Route 2, Decatur, Miss. 39327.

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## Staff Changes

Ron Jenkins, former minister of music at Brooksville Baptist Church, Brooksville, and Trinity Baptist Church, West Point, has been called as minister of music and youth for Mulberry Park Baptist Church, Houma, La. Fuller Saunders, former pastor at Woodland Hills, Jackson, is pastor at Mulberry Park.

Mamon Morris has resigned as pastor of Drivers Flat Baptist Church, Calhoun County, and has begun his ministry as pastor of Pilgrim's Rest Church, Calhoun County.

Ricky Camp has resigned as pastor of Sherman Church (Calhoun County). Winfred Brasher has been called as interim pastor.

James Lee Bailey has resigned the pastorate of Liberty Hill Church, Panola Association, after five years. He has returned to Victory Church, Jefferson Davis Association, where he had served before going to Liberty Hill. His new address is Route 1, Box 44, Bassfield, Miss. 39421.

Ron Hurlbert has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mississippi City. He goes there after several years in evangelism.

Richard Bradley has resigned as pastor of the Shoreline Park Baptist Church, Gulf Coast. He is available for pulpit supply and other areas of service.

Roland Satterfield has accepted a call to become minister of education at First Church, Tupelo.

Donnie Boutwell has moved from the pastorate of Four Mile Creek Baptist Church, Jackson Association, to the pastorate of Brewer Baptist Church, Perry County.

Dennis Dunn has resigned the pastorate of Union Hall Church, Lincoln County, to accept a church at Boyle.

Darryl Petry is the new minister of music and youth at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven.



## Pastor and son design steeple

Calvary Baptist Church near Louin has a new steeple which was designed and built by the pastor, W. O. Partridge and son, Bobby. Young people of the church are painting the interior of the sanctuary. New pew pads have been ordered. A new heating and cooling system was installed last year for sanctuary and Sunday School classrooms. Established in 1962, Calvary is 20 years old this year. "In the past two years, the growth of the church has been quite obvious," a member said.



## Dress A Child At Easter — 1982 —

### A GOOD GIFT:

Write or telephone us. Request sizes on a child in the age group of your choice. You may sew or shop as you choose and mail or deliver the clothing.

### A BETTER GIFT:

Write or telephone us. Request our staff to take a child shopping for you. A better fit is insured and the child's own tastes are considered. \$75.00 will dress a child of 10 years or less; \$85.00 will dress a child from 10 to 14 years; \$115.00 will dress a high school or college youth, 15 years or older.

### THE BEST GIFT:

Make a cash gift to our "Dress A Child At Easter" Fund. Help us dress EVERY child at the Village in church clothing for spring and summer and help us underwrite our costly clothing and shoe budget for the entire year.

We need your help on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson, on the Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County, at Dickerson Place in Lincoln County and at our New Albany Group Home.

## The Baptist Children's Village

Box 11308 — Delta Station  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213  
Telephone — 922-2242



# Bible Book Series

## The King's agony and arrest

By Howard E. Spell, Clinton  
Matthew 26:31-56

Although the material in chapters 14-17 of the Gospel according to John is not recorded by Matthew, it fits in our story at this point and it would be well to read those chapters now. This statements made by Jesus, other than the long prayer, were likely made as he and the disciples lingered in the upper room or as they walked toward Gethsemane.

### I. The failure of his followers predicted (26:31-35)

Following their experiences in the upper room, Jesus and the eleven went through the city of Jerusalem and across the valley to the Mount of Olives where there was a garden. Somewhere along the way Jesus predicted all of the eleven would "fall away" that night because of him. It was then that Peter affirmed his loyalty assuring Jesus he would never fall away. Knowing what was ahead, Jesus told him that even before rooster crowing time that night he would deny him three times. But so confident was Peter that he affirmed he would die before he would deny him.

### II. The agony in the garden (26:36-46)

Archaeologists tell us the exact location of the Garden of Gethsemane is unknown at this time. This is said even though visitors to Jerusalem today are shown a place by that name and even have pointed out to them the very olive tree under which they claim Peter fell asleep. After all the location is relatively unimportant; what took place there is of tremendous significance.

It would be presumptuous for one to try to explain the agony Jesus experienced in the garden. Here was suffering more intense than even the physical torture through which he would go the next day. We should also keep in mind the suffering of God the Father as he had to watch his Son suffer without being able to help. Father and Son both agonized.

Leaving eight of the disciples in one place, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him deeper in the garden and urged them to remain there and keep watch while he went on beyond them. If there was a time in which Jesus needed the companionship and understanding of others, this was it; but when he came back, he found the three disciples asleep and he exclaimed, "So, you men could not watch with Me for one hour?" (26:40b NASV).

Probably the emphasis in that quo-

tation should be on the word "with." Although Jesus knew this was a battle which he must fight alone, he did yearn for the concern and interest of others and wanted them to watch and pray with him. It is interesting to note that even in his hour of deep need he was also concerned about the disciples and urged them to pray for themselves. He knew the weakness of the flesh and could foresee some of the temptations they would face.

Having left the disciples again that he might go through another session of struggle, Matthew tells us he prayed: "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done" (26:42b NASV). The victory had been won. Whatever temptation there had been not to go through with it had been overcome. One can only wonder at his feeling when he returned the third time to find the disciples asleep.

### III. The betrayal and arrest (26:47-56)

It is quite likely Judas knew Jesus came often to this particular place to pray. Thus he had no trouble finding him and the disciples. Judas was accompanied by a "great multitude" who were well armed. They were probably temple guards and others who had been sent by the chief priests and the elders and had been told by Judas the man they were to seize would be the one he kissed. Luke tells us when this happened, Jesus said, "Judas are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48 NASV).

As the crowd came forward to lay hands on Jesus, one of those with him (Matthew does not identify him) drew out a sword and cut off the ear of a slave of the high priest. There seems little doubt that John wrote his Gospel a number of years later, and by that time it was generally known that Simon Peter was the one wielding the sword. Thus John does not hesitate to name him and also the name of the servant of the high priest (John 18:10). It is interesting to note that Luke, the physician, is the only one of the gospel writers to tell us Jesus healed the ear of Malcus.

Since Jews from many parts of the empire came to Jerusalem for their annual feasts resulting in huge crowds, Roman law prohibited their bearing arms on feast days. This was done to lessen the chance of an uprising that might overpower the Roman garrison. Thus Simon Peter is now a law-violator. Furthermore he must have struck with intent to kill since it is unlikely that he meant to cut off only

an ear of Malcus. Jesus had Simon Peter put away his sword.

Turning to the armed crowd, Jesus asked them why they had come so heavily armed as though he were a robber. He reminded them he had been teaching the people in the temple and they had not sought to seize him then. Naturally they had no reply, but Matthew reminds us, "but all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled" (26:56a NASV).

It is at this point Matthew records a sad fact. All of the disciples fled, leaving Jesus alone in the hands of the crowd. Did these men who earlier had affirmed their loyalty panic? Did they fear for their own lives? Let us be too quick to judge others or too harsh in our criticism. We need to examine ourselves to see if there are not times today when, by our failure to testify of our faith in him, we leave him alone. We forget so very easily the responsibility we have to identify ourselves with his plan for witnessing to a lost world. Do we go with him, or leave him alone?

## Revival Dates

**Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Natchez (Adams):** March 14-19; Johnny Parks of Kosciusko, evangelist; Hubert Greer of Brookhaven, music director; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

**Hollandale Church:** March 14-18; James Richardson, pastor at Madison Baptist Church, and a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, evangelist; Tommy Howard, minister of music and education at First Baptist, Leland (where Richardson was formerly pastor for 23 years), singer; services at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; other evenings at 7:30; evening sessions to be broadcast over a local radio station. On Saturday, March 13, a "day of prayer chain" will be sponsored by various Sunday School classes and other groups.

**First Baptist Church of Runnelstown** near Hattiesburg: March 21-26; services at 7 p.m.; David Shofner of Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Budda Lammons of First, Runnelstown, leading the music; Richard White, pastor.



These eight, center, were the first to be baptized in the province of Zamboanga Del Norte, Philippines. Paul Thibodeaux, pastor at First Baptist, Mantee, Miss., is at left and Alberto Cabrella, Filipino pastor, is at right.

## Thibodeaux preaches in Philippines

One hundred and sixty pastors, musicians, and lay persons from across the Southern Baptist Convention participated in the North Luzon Crusade in the Philippines, Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 1982.

Mississippi had one participant, Paul Thibodeaux, pastor of Mantee Baptist Church. The 160 were invited by the Foreign Mission Board to be a part of Partnership Evangelism in the Philippines beginning in January and continuing to March. A Metro Manila Crusade, Feb. 16-Mar. 2, concluded this intense evangelistic effort on the island of Luzon.

Thibodeaux was accompanied by Bill Floyd, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Starke, Fla. After the crusade on Luzon, they travelled to the southern island of Mindanao for another week of evangelistic efforts. While there, the first baptisms ever were recorded in the province of Zamboanga Del Norte. Eight of the Subanon tribe, living in the mountainous region of Punot were baptized by Thibodeaux.

According to Southern Baptist missionary Gerald Davis, this is the first work in the province. Bob Nash, chairman of the Philippine Baptist Mission, confirms that the province of Zamboanga Del Norte was the last remaining area with no established work on the island of Mindanao.

With the conversion and baptism of these eight Subanon people, Davis said he anticipates evangelistic and church-planting opportunities to multiply, despite the heavy Moslem influence of the province.

There were 229 professions of faith in the area where Thibodeaux and Floyd preached. While final results are not

in, as of the last night of the crusade, there had been over 6,700 professions of faith.



Greene

Peace in the heart of the believer is not the absence of storms, not a blind submission that whatever will be must be and I'll just have to endure. Rather it is the ability to sing in the midst of the storm, knowing it is in his keeping and all will be well.

Two artists were asked to paint a picture of peace. One took great pains to paint a tranquil sea, live with beautiful but motionless trees. Nothing disturbed the tranquility. The other artist unveiled a picture of a violent storm at sea. The trees were bowed low as the winds bent their boughs to the ground. The critics said to the second artist, "You must have misunderstood. We wanted a picture of peace."

"No, you didn't catch the message. Don't you see the bird singing in the top of the tree?"

That's the kind of peace that Jesus gives—

It never dies, but always lives,  
Like the music of a psalm  
Like a glad, eternal calm  
This peace that Jesus gives.

## Devotional

## Jesus means peace

By Billy Greene, pastor  
Whitesand Baptist Church, Prentiss

Why are ye fearful: . . . He rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm (Matt. 8:26).

Following the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus came down to minister to the multitudes. Being tired, Jesus and his disciples went by boat to the other side of the water. While he was asleep a great storm arose and they became frustrated and afraid. They cried to him for help. In a compassionate, yet firm voice he chided them for their lack of faith. Then he rebuked the storm and there was a great calm.

Our lives are filled with storms: sickness, death, financial worry, crises in the lives of our children, problems with our work. Like the disciples we feel sometimes that Jesus is far away. We only have to approach him in faith and ask for his help. We turn to him believing he can help, trusting the storm to his care, and he stills the winds of the storm, bringing an unspeakable peace.

Peace in the heart of the believer is not the absence of storms, not a blind submission that whatever will be must be and I'll just have to endure. Rather it is the ability to sing in the midst of the storm, knowing it is in his keeping and all will be well.

Two artists were asked to paint a picture of peace. One took great pains to paint a tranquil sea, live with beautiful but motionless trees. Nothing disturbed the tranquility. The other artist unveiled a picture of a violent storm at sea. The trees were bowed low as the winds bent their boughs to the ground. The critics said to the second artist, "You must have misunderstood. We wanted a picture of peace."

"No, you didn't catch the message. Don't you see the bird singing in the top of the tree?"

That's the kind of peace that Jesus gives—

It never dies, but always lives,  
Like the music of a psalm  
Like a glad, eternal calm  
This peace that Jesus gives.

## Life and Work Lesson

## A more excellent way

By James L. Travis  
Pastoral Services  
University Medical Center, Jackson  
I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Directly in the midst of this lengthy discussion pertaining to spiritual gifts, and more specifically to the gift of tongues (since it was the most troublesome issue), Paul seems to digress to pen what has to be the most classic statement on the nature of Christian love. And yet it is not a digression at all, for the one element in life that gives meaning and purpose to all of the other components is the element of **agape**. This gift-love from the Father is not only one of the gifts to be desired; it is the gift whose very excellence gives meaning to all the other gifts.

**The worthlessness of gifts without love (12:31b-13:3):** In a progression of statements, Paul reiterates the worthlessness of any gift, no matter how special or how far-reaching, without the qualifying factor of love. He begins with the issue of contention in the Corinthian church, namely, speaking in tongues. Even if someone has the gift, develops it and gives expression to it, so that it approximates some angelic sound, without the modifying factor of love, it is no more than the noise made by the worshippers of Dionysius as they processed toward the pagan temples. Such hollow tones of gongs and cymbals are but sounds of mockery if there is no substance of love within them.

Moreover, if the gift of prophecy, which would enable a person to plumb the depths of mysteries and scale the heights of knowledge, or even the tremendous faith through which unimaginable obstacles could be moved are without love, these amount literally to nothing. Finally, even the ultimate sacrifice, namely, the giving of one's life for a good cause, must in some way be permeated with the motive of love or it is but a tragic gesture.

All human beings are gifted in some fashion. Gifts may be enhanced within the context of the Christian faith as we attempt to utilize them in the service of our brothers and sisters and for the glory of God. But there must always be the factor of love or we will find ourselves giving great performances, doing noble deeds that leave both the doer and the receiver with a sense of something essentially lacking.

**Characteristics of love (13:4-7):** As this passage is read, it is important to keep in mind that it stands as an ideal

statement. No one ever loves completely in this sense, but it is the **agape** love which serves as model for us in our human love for other persons. One of the important things that this statement does is to call into question the hollow substitutes that we parade forth in our society in the name of love.

The romantic myths which get such mileage in the media and cause such trouble in family relationships fall far short of the kind of love which is described here. So much of what we hear and talk about as love in our world today is primarily that which meets our needs. To "fall in love" with someone else means essentially the collapse of our own ego boundaries so that another person may fill up the vacuum of loneliness and fear in our own lives. Loving someone else in the sense in which Paul describes it here in this letter is not so much a way of feeling as it is a kind of commitment to another individual, a commitment that shows up in behavior which is intended for the other person's growth and development.

As I look over this set of characteristics, I am reminded of the definition of love simply stated by an outstanding psychiatrist a few years ago. The late Harry Stack Sullivan on one occasion defined love in this manner: "When the well-being of another person comes to mean as much or more to us than our own, then the state of love exists." This was the kind of love which led a Father to give his only Son, led that Son to give his only life and, insofar as we open our lives to this gift-love, will enable us truly to live and work for the growth and well-being of other individuals.

**Permanence of love (13:8-13):** The final and perhaps most important characteristics of love which Paul details here is that it will never cease. "Obsolete" is not a word in the vocabulary of love. Where other modes of awareness and relatedness may grow old or entirely pass away, love yet remains. Even in a world where there is limitation and imperfection, love lasts on. In fact, this is the redemptive quality in a world in which we have at best but a feeble grasp on reality. One of the primary industries in first-century Corinth was a mirror-making business. Mirrors were not made of glass as they are today. Rather, some metal alloy was smoothed and polished until one was able to make out his or her reflection in the shining surface.

On occasion though, even the most skilled of the artisans would be unable to get out all of the tiny dents in the surface of the metal. As a result, there would be some distortion in the image reflected there. Paul uses this figure of speech, knowing that it would graphically convey to the Corinthian Christians what he was trying to get across to them. One translation has it this way, "Now we see puzzling reflections in the mirror."

Redemptive even of our puzzling reflections (those aspects of life in which at best we are only slightly less than confused), love comes in to make it all right. This is what Paul intended to say in another place when he wrote, "But God proved his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners . . ." The limitations of our humanity become the occasion for the greatest demonstration of God's love for us.

Someday, somehow it will all come clearer to us. But for now, though there are several great things such as faith and hope, the greatest of these, because it is what redeems a puzzling, confused life, is love.

## Baptist Memorial adds staffers

MEMPHIS—Two specialists in news editing and photography have joined the newly-established office of communications at Baptist Memorial Hospital here, Roy Jennings, director of communications, announced.

They are Deborah Faries DuBois, an assistant city editor of the **Memphis Press-Scimitar** for three years, and Robert H. Williams, picture editor of **The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal** for 14 years.

Ms. DuBois will supervise news and publications services at the 2,068-bed medical complex and Williams will direct photographic services.

Jennings, who opened the communications office almost five months ago, said Judy Felker left a position as a publications art supervisor at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, on February 25 to become supervisor of art services at the hospital.

The 70-year-old health care complex is owned by Southern Baptists in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

## Uniform Lesson

## Two miracles for a paralytic

By Louie Farmer, Jr., Hattiesburg  
Mark 2:1-12

A very entertaining program on national television recently featured a magician. Throughout the show he occasionally referred to what he was doing as miracles. The difference in his miracles and the miracles of Jesus was very pronounced. The magician readily admitted that his feats were illusions. His acts were fake, not real, and were done to entertain the viewers. No real good was even intended.

The miracles of Jesus were real although they were not any better understood than the acts of the magician. They amazed the first century viewers as much as the feats of the television magician amazed his viewers. They were genuine and were done, through compassion, for the good of the sick, blind, or crippled, not for fame or for money.

### I. Setting (Mark 2:1-4).

As last Sunday's lesson closed, Jesus had healed many who came to Simon's house after the close of the sabbath day. There had been great numbers of people healed and they were so excited that he felt it necessary to retreat into the towns of Galilee where he preached and healed many more people including a leper.

After some time—we cannot be sure how much time—he came back into Capernaum. The news got around that Jesus was back in "the house", probably Peter's house. A great crowd gathered again. People who had seen or heard of his healing when he was there before were anxious to see him or were anxious to be healed. The first time it seemed that the whole town crowded in front of the house (Mk. 1:33). This time Jesus was in the house and probably the first to arrive came in and crowded around him. Then as others came "there wasn't any room left, not even out in front of the house" (2:2 TEV).

The people had come to see Jesus' healing, but in our study of the miracles Jesus performed, we must not miss the fact that he, undoubtedly, felt the important thing was his preaching to them.

Houses in Palestine were very small and had flat roofs. Heavy timbers were laid across the walls and various other materials, brush and then mud or tiles, were laid across them. The roof was used for many purposes. We read of Peter praying on the roof (Acts

10:9). Usually there was a stairway on the outside of the house leading to the roof.

Four men came carrying a paralytic to Jesus and found the crowd in front of the house impenetrable. Not to be denied access to the healer by their burden they scaled the stairs outside the house, dug through the roof and let the man down in front of Jesus. The Greek literally says they "unroofed the roof." Can you imagine the consternation of Peter, or whoever was the owner of the house, when he heard the noise of the roof being torn up and bits of the roof and ceiling began to fall on the crowd in front of Jesus! Even the crowd must have been startled as it was necessary for them to give way to the pallet which was descending on them carrying a man immobilized by paralysis.

### II. Miracle one: sins forgiven (Mark 2:5-9)

As the paralytic lay there looking up at Jesus, "Jesus saw their faith" and said to the paralytic, "Son, thy sins are forgiven thee."

Whose faith? It was not the faith of the paralytic alone for it was "their" faith. Some commentators say Jesus meant only the faith of the four men who brought the paralytic to him but sins are not forgiven because of another's faith. So it must have been that Jesus recognized the faith of all five: both those who were so determined to bring the paralytic and the paralytic himself who bore the obvious discomfort of the descent from the roof.

"My son" is literally "child." The word is used in affectionate address such as patrons, helpers, teachers, and the like employ (Thayer). It indicated the compassion, pity, and love Jesus automatically felt toward the paralytic. So often our first emotional reaction to one so afflicted is not one of love but one of revulsion or rejection. Oh, for the mind of Jesus! (Cf. Phi. 2:5).

The belief that sickness of body or mind was due to some sort of sin in the past was prevalent among the Jews. There likely was a feeling of guilt in the heart of this paralytic. Jesus wanted to remove that first.

But could Jesus forgive sins? The scribes who were there thought he could not. They did not speak out against him but they reasoned among themselves and agreed that he was a

blasphemer. That would be a mere man who assumes he has divine attributes or powers. If Jesus had been a mere human being they would have been absolutely correct. Their difficulty was that they did not realize, or believe, that he was God in the flesh!

When Jesus realized what the scribes were saying among themselves he asked if it would be easier for him to heal the paralytic than to forgive him. At least if he forgave sins no one could check up on his success. If, on the other hand, he healed the man, the evidence of his success or failure would be immediately clear.

### III. Miracle two: body healed (Mark 2:10-12)

Jesus had forgiven the paralytic's sins, for he knew that he had authority to do so. Now he is willing to put his reputation on the line and heal the man for he knew he could. This would be a visible thing that all present could see. He gave the command for the man to get up, take up his pallet, and go home. Immediately the command was obeyed without another word. This gave evidence to the observers that the first miracle was real. They all were amazed and said they had never seen such. What they did not realize was that there had not been anyone before with the love, the compassion, the power, and the authority of Jesus.

**Application:** Let us learn to look on those around us with the love and compassion of Jesus and to do what is within our power for them.

It was a little thing to do but here is a small example of that sort of caring. A young lady who has been confined to a wheelchair for most of her life used to come into the Baptist Student Center at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her battery-powered wheelchair often had a loose or missing screw and thus was difficult or uncomfortable for her to operate. She would come into my office where I would tighten or replace the offending screw. This gave a small opportunity to offer the helping hand of Christian love.

## Revival Dates

**Belle Fountain Baptist Church, Ocean Springs:** March 28-April 2; Donnie Guy, Atnore, Ala., evangelist; services at 7 p.m.; revival being held simultaneously with other Jackson County Baptist churches.